

# EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH of BEMIDJI

*"To promote the supremacy of Christ  
by celebrating His love, obeying His truth,  
and enlarging His kingdom."*

**December 31, 2017**

**WELCOME!** It's great to worship the Lord with you today. Please take a minute to fill out a **Welcome Card** located in the chair back pocket. We hope you feel right at home here.

Please stop by our Welcome Table in the main foyer with your completed Welcome Card and exchange it for a free church mug filled with chocolates and information about the ministries here.

## Worship Service

**Message**

"Finishing Well"  
John 21:1-23

Pastor Rick Weinert

### **NURSERY: For children age 3 and under**

We thank God for families and children! In order to help serve your needs we provide a staffed nursery at the 8:30 and 11:00 services, and during the Small Group hour at 9:45. The nursery is located at the far end of the Fellowship Hall and to the right. The ushers will be glad to direct you. Please be sure to sign in your child and pick up a pager each week.



**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:** There will be no children's Sunday School TODAY. Our regular schedule will resume on January 7.

**BEGINNER'S CHURCH/BAY POINT:** There will be no Beginner's Church or Bay Point TODAY. Our regular schedule will resume on January 7.

**KIDS CLUB:** We will resume our weekly festivities on January 10.

### **NEED PRAYER?**

A member of our Prayer Team will be happy to pray with you this morning. Please come to the Prayer Corner on the right side of the platform after the worship service. All prayers will be kept confidential.



## **OUR CHURCH'S WEEK**

**Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
(closed Mondays)**

**Tues.** 10:30 a.m. Bones Builders – Chapel

**Wed.** 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study – Fireside Room

**Fri.** 6:30 p.m. Radical Beginnings Ladies Event – Chapel

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**SUNDAY:** Pray for those in our church who are looking for work or better jobs. Pray that God will provide for all their needs.

**MONDAY:** Pray for the church staff and their families.

**TUESDAY:** Pray for the teachers, staff and students who are returning to school this week.

**WEDNESDAY:** Pray for our Global Partners Troy and Michelle Glass as they serve with eMi (Engineering Ministries International).

**THURSDAY:** Pray for opportunities to reach out to family, neighbors and friends who don't know our Lord.

**FRIDAY:** Pray for the hungry and homeless in our community. Pray that their physical and spiritual needs will be met.

**SATURDAY:** Pray for the financial needs of our church and the Global Partners we support. Pray that all our needs will be met.

## **NURSERY STAFF for TODAY**

11:00 Sharna Johnson and Tracy Parthun

## **NURSERY STAFF for NEXT WEEK**

8:30 T.B.D. and T.B.D.

11:00 T.B.D. and T.B.D.

## **MINISTRY GIVING**

### **General Ministry Fund**

December 24 giving: **\$13,416**

Budgeted/week: **\$12,496**; 52 weeks: **\$649,792**

Received through December 24: **\$616,420**

### **Global Partners Fund**

December 24 giving: **\$785**

Budgeted/week: **\$1,449**; 52 weeks: **\$75,348**

Received through December 24: **\$70,581**

## **CAN I DESIGNATE MY GIVING TO THE CHURCH?**

Yes! For example, our church's Global Partner's Fund is kept separate from our General Ministry Fund. That means that all gifts contributed for missions go only for missions, but it also means that gifts need to be designated on your envelope or check for the Global Partners Fund. Any contributions that are not designated go to the General Ministry Fund.

Please do not overlook our General Ministry Fund. It covers all of our weekly ministries such as our youth ministries, Sunday School, worship services, and pastoral ministries.

Envelopes for your offerings are available on the counter in the church office. Listed on the envelope are the main areas for giving and a place to designate special donations. Forget your checkbook? You can give online at [www.efcbemidji.org](http://www.efcbemidji.org) and also by texting (218) 216-8560 with the amount you would like to contribute, including the dollar sign (ex. \$25).

## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

**Pastoral Emergency Care Phone:** (218) 760-7424

**Wi-Fi Information:** Username: EFCB-Public

Password: efreebemidji

**www.efcbemidji.org:** Visit our website to keep up to date with what is going on in the church as well as getting the bulletin, sermons, calendar, and staff emails.

**pray@efcbemidji.org:** Email or call the Church Office, (218) 751-8834 with your requests. Join our prayer team by emailing [pray@efcbemidji.org](mailto:pray@efcbemidji.org) and typing "Subscribe" in the subject line.

**Hearing Assistance:** Church hearing assistance system receivers are available in the church office.



**No Youth Group until  
January 10, have a  
**Merry Christmas!!****

## **PARENTS**

If you would like to keep up to date on things going on in Youth Ministries, please send me an email at [pastoralbin@efcbemidji.org](mailto:pastoralbin@efcbemidji.org) to get on the parent mailing list.

## **TEXT UP DATES!!!**

If you are interested in receiving periodic text updates please text exactly the following to 40404

**Follow @EFCB\_SM**

**Standard Messaging Rates apply. Contact  
Pastor Albin with any questions!!**

**No SUNDAY SCHOOL today,  
we will resume on January 7!**



# **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Thank you all who helped serve in the program and helped put it on! Please thank Dawn Carpenter and Faye Riegert as well as all the other people who helped!

- Pastor Albin

**THANK  
YOU!**

## **We have a new Children's Ministries Director!**

Gerri Thorsgard will be joining our staff in January after receiving a unanimous vote from both the Children's Ministries Task Force and the entire Elder Board. Please join us in welcoming her and her family to our church!

\*\* Any comments or questions, please contact Pastor Albin at (218) 751-8834 ext. 111 or email [PastorAlbin@efcbemidji.org](mailto:PastorAlbin@efcbemidji.org).

# EFCB Young Adults

*“Our Mission is to engage Young Adults where they are with Christ centered, biblically driven, meaningful conversations and encouragement.”*



**Join us for Vespers next Sunday,**  
**January 7.**

**If you are interested in getting involved,  
please contact Pastor Albin at (218)  
751-8834.**

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS

## **COMMUNITY HOLIDAY MEAL**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped with the Christmas Community Meal this year. Without all your hard work it would not have been such a success and it is much appreciated!

## **GROWING IN GOD'S WORD IN THE NEW YEAR**



Are you looking for a New Year's resolution? How about getting to know God's Word better? A variety of Bible reading guides are available this morning in the Fellowship Hall. There are also Bibles for sale, including the New NIV Study Bible (\$25.00) and The Daily Walk Bible (\$15.00), an NIV Bible separated into daily readings for one year. Choose one that is right for you. Take a step or two beyond where you are now in your understanding of God's Word.



## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS!!!**

We have hired a new Children's Ministries Director!! Gerri Thorsgard has accepted the position after a unanimous vote from both the Children's Ministries Task Force and the entire Elder Board. She will be starting in January. Please welcome her and her family to our church!!

## **ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE**

The Associate Pastor Search Committee would like to give church members the opportunity to provide input on the wording and content of the associate pastor job description. Although we do not anticipate major changes, we may be able to address the requirements, preferences, and some content more clearly. We anticipate that we will finalize the job description at our January 7 meeting.

Copies are available at the office as well as next to the sermon notes in the rack in the foyer. Please email [ksalscheider@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:ksalscheider@bemidjistate.edu) or phone (218) 760-3281 with your comments to our committee chair, Karl Salscheider, by noon Thursday, January 4. Your comments will be both prayerfully considered and confidential.

## **SERMON SNEAK PEEK**

January 7, "Our Greatest Threat," Isaiah 59:1-15a

January 14, "A Journey through 1 John," 1 John 1:1-5:21

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **LADIES EVENT WITH EMILIE GIBBONS**

Ladies, join us this Friday, January 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel for a ladies night with Emilie Gibbons (one of our Global Partners serving in France and Mom to our own Naomi Shindelar).

Emilie will speak on the topic "Radical Beginnings" and you won't want to miss this challenging and encouraging message! Don't forget to bring a friend!

## **LET'S PRAY**



"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need," (Hebrews 4:16). As a church we have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to pray about! Join other believers next Sunday, January 7, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Next Sunday, January 7, the Lord's Supper will be served in both morning worship services. All who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior are invited to participate.

Please take some time to reflect upon your walk with the Lord and your relationships with other Christians. 1

Corinthians 11:28 says, "We ought to examine ourselves before we eat of the bread and drink of the cup." The Lord's Supper represents the Christian's union with Jesus and his or her unity with other believers.

Therefore, prepare by confessing any sins that are hindering your fellowship with the Lord and by taking the steps necessary to pursue reconciliation with other Christians. Then come and rejoice in the love that God has given through His Son. The Bible gives no age limits for the Lord's Supper, but children should be trusting in Christ for salvation and have some understanding of what the Lord's Supper signifies.

Following the service, a special offering will be received for our church's Benevolence Fund. Our Elders are available for any questions: Ron Bouchie, Jerome Decker, Peter Eriksson, Jerry Johnson, Randy McKain, Bill Oakes, Karl Salscheider, Terry Smith, Albin Sterneman, and John R. Williams.



## **BECOME A CHURCH MEMBER**

Our church is organized in such a way that membership is necessary for us to function. While our ultimate authority as a church is Jesus Christ, it is the congregation—believers in Jesus who have become members of this church body—who make the important decisions about our church's ministry. Members vote on the budget, elect elders and trustees, and vote to call pastors.

If you consider this your church family, we would encourage you to consider making the commitment to also be an official member. There will be a **membership class Sunday, January 7 at 12:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room with snacks provided.** Each person will receive a membership notebook that explains the purpose of the church, the essential requirements for membership and the key beliefs and practices of the church. Any and all questions about the church will be welcomed!

If you are interested in church membership or have other questions, please contact the church office or Micah Carpenter, (218) 751-8834.



## **WHITE CROSS**

Ladies, join us for White Cross Thursday, January 11, 9:00-11:00 a.m. We meet in the Fellowship Hall and work on projects for various missions. If you have questions please contact Ellen Ward (970) 373-6548 or Bonnie Munz (218) 333-3749.

## **MEN'S WILD GAME FEED: SAVE THE DATE!**

Men, put Monday, January 22, 6:00 p.m. on your calendar for the annual Men's Wild Game Feed. Our speaker this year will be Bob Strand, who will share about his experience working with the DNR fisheries. Please plan to bringing a dish to share (wild game is good, but side dishes are needed too), and also please think about inviting a friend.

## **LADIES CRAFT WEEKEND**

Ladies, please join us for a craft weekend, January 26 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and January 27 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Any ladies 12 and older are welcome to join us here in the Fellowship Hall, bring your unfinished projects or start something new! Don't forget to bring a friend! Questions? Stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, January 17 and January 21.

## **SOS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The Servants of Shelter ministry for the homeless will be held at our church the week of February 18 – February 25. Volunteers will be needed for shifts, serving meals, and other tasks. If you would like to help with this ministry, please mark it down on your calendar now. More information and opportunities to sign up will be available starting in late January.

### **Season of Giving**



Each holiday season, the church anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions.

It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a welcome way to make contributions. To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at [www.efcbemidji.org](http://www.efcbemidji.org) and locate the link to our online giving page. Or if it's easier, complete a paper authorization form and return it to the church office.

**You can also make a contribution to E-Free Bemidji with a quick text message!**

Simply send a text to (218) 216-8560 with the amount you would like to contribute. Make sure to include the dollar sign before the amount (example: \$25). Within a few minutes, you will be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email.

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically!

# FINISHING WELL

John 21:1-23

12/31/17, Pastor Rick Weinert

Facilitator of Church and Ministry Resources

Oak Hills Church Ministry



“And in Jerusalem he made engines of war invented by skillful men to be on the towers and on the corners, for the purpose of shooting arrows and great stones. Hence his fame spread afar, for he was marvelously helped until he was strong. <sup>16</sup> But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God...”  
2 Chronicles

26:15-16a

Peter didn't start well. The future of the church is in the hands of the disciples.

What does Peter need to understand if he is to finish better than he started?

Peter needs to learn:

- I. To work from a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ – 1-14
  
- II. To face his \_\_\_\_\_, understanding them in light of  
God's plans and purposes – 15-17
  
- III. To \_\_\_\_\_ God's call on his life and let go of  
\_\_\_\_\_ – 18-23

Uzziah did not finish well. Peter did. How will you finish? Which of these lessons is God teaching you right now?